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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/522,808	01/31/2005	Pierre Simon	0502-1025	6767

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EXAMINER

CULLER, JILL E

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2854

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/522,808	Applicant(s) SIMON ET AL.	
	Examiner Jill E. Culler	Art Unit 2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2007.
 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9,10 and 15-19 is/are allowed.
 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,7,8,12-14 and 20 is/are rejected.
 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 and 11 is/are objected to.
 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,081,700 to Kieckhefer, Jr. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,462,311 to Armelin.

With respect to claims 1-2, Kieckhefer, Jr. teaches a printing machine, at least two offset printing apparatus, each apparatus comprising a frame, see column 5, lines 22-26, supporting a paper cylinder, 17, against which a blanket cylinder, 16, presses a blanket to be printed, the printing ink being supplied on a plate cylinder, 18, in contact with the blanket cylinder by inking rollers, wherein the paper cylinder, 17, of each apparatus is devoid of any drive in rotation and is substantially fixed with respect to the frame, and between two adjacent apparatus which print one and the same face of the blanket, the arrangement is such that this face is in contact only with the blanket cylinders. See column 5, lines 4-26 and the Figure.

Kieckhefer, Jr. does not teach the printing machine is a variable format printing machine wherein the plate and blanket cylinders are provided with means for rendering the plate and blanket cylinders removable, and accepting plate and blanket cylinders of

variable diameters in order to present a diameter as a function of the format to be printed.

Armelin teaches a variable format printing machine wherein plate and blanket cylinders, 8, 9, are provided with means, 11, for rendering the plate and blanket cylinders removable, and accepting plate and blanket cylinders of variable diameters in order to present a diameter as a function of the format to be printed. See column 3, lines 60-64, column 4, lines 8-20 and Fig. 2 in particular.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Kieckhefer, Jr. to have the means for removing and using variable diameters of blanket and plate cylinders, as taught by Armelin, in order to be able to quickly and easily change the format of the printing machine.

With respect to claim 20, Kieckhefer, Jr. teaches that the positioning of the paper cylinders, 17, of the printing apparatus is such that the blanket to be printed is distributed in a straight line inside the machine. See the Figure.

3. Claims 3, 7 and 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kieckhefer, Jr. in view of Armelin as applied to claims 1-2 and 20 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,141,293 to Corse.

With respect to claims 3, 7 and 8, Kieckhefer, Jr. and Armelin teach all that is claimed, as in the above rejection of claims 1-2 and 20, except that each printing apparatus comprises sub-assemblies grouping together the elements respectively associated with the inking rollers, the plate cylinder, and the blanket cylinder, which are

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slidably mounted on slideways of the frame under the action of motorization elements which are fast with the latter so that each of these sub-assemblies is adapted to undergo a translation perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the cylinder, or that the composition roller and the inking rollers associated therewith and the dampening roller all form part of the same sub-assembly.

Corse teaches a printing machine in which each printing apparatus comprises sub-assemblies grouping together the elements respectively associated with the inking rollers, 16, the plate cylinder, 15, and the blanket cylinder, 14, which are slidably mounted on slideways, 19, of the frame under the action of motorization elements which are fast with the latter so that each of these sub-assemblies is adapted to undergo a translation perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the cylinders and that the composition roller and the inking rollers associated therewith and the dampening roller all form part of the same sub-assembly. See column 2, lines 50-57.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the apparatus of Kieckhefer, Jr. to have the sub-assembly groupings and slideways, as taught by Corse, in order to more efficiently move the cylinders.

4. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kieckhefer, Jr. in view of Armelin as applied to claims 1-2 and 20 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No.5,878,666 to Schneider et al.

With respect to claim 12, Kieckhefer, Jr. and Armelin teach all that is claimed, as in the above rejection of claims 1-2 and 20 except that the printing apparatus are provided with a single composition roller of which the diameter is constant and independent of the format to be printed and which is supplied with ink by at least four inking rollers.

Schneider et al. teaches a composition roller supplied with ink by at least four inking rollers, 21. See column 2, lines 42-47 and Fig. 1.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the apparatus of Kieckhefer, Jr. to have the inking arrangement of Schneider et al. in order to more consistently supply ink to the cylinders.

With respect to claims 13-14, Kieckhefer, Jr. and Armelin teach all that is claimed, as in the above rejection of claims 1-2 and 20 except that at least one of the cylinders is constituted by a removable sleeve, connected to a support cylinder and the composition roller is, in functioning, held at its two ends by two bearings, of which one is provided with means allowing it, at stop, to retract so as to allow the extraction and positioning of a sleeve.

Schneider et al. teaches a cylinder constituted by a removable sleeve, 96, connected to a support cylinder, see column 4, lines 8-22 and Fig. 6, wherein the composition roller is, in functioning, held at its two ends by two bearings, of which one is provided with means allowing it, at stop, to retract so as to allow the extraction and positioning of a sleeve. See column 4, lines 4-22.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the apparatus of Kieckhefer, Jr. to have the printing sleeve and bearing means taught by Schneider et al. in order to more readily replace the surface of the cylinder.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 9-10 and 15-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claim 9, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a printing apparatus as claimed, particularly including the cylinder arrangement and servo-controlled means to adjust the position of the cylinder sub-assemblies or to individually rotate the cylinders.

With respect to claim 15, the prior art does not teach or render obvious an apparatus as claimed, particularly including that at least one of the ends of at least one cylinder is in abutment on a mobile support that is retractable into rest position so that the cylinder can be maintained in overhang by the bearing.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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6. Claims 4-6 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: With respect to claims 4 and 11, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a printing apparatus as claimed, particularly including the cylinder arrangement and servo-controlled means to adjust the position of the cylinder sub-assemblies or to individually rotate the cylinders.

With respect to claim 5, the prior art does not teach or render obvious an apparatus as claimed, particularly including detection and safety means allowing two sub-assemblies to move apart from each other when the detection means detect an effort greater than a determined maximum value between their respective associated cylinders.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jill E. Culler whose telephone number is (571) 272-2159. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jec

Jill E. Keller
Patent Examiner